

IN THE CLAIMS:

Kindly amend the claims as follows and as set forth in the marked-up copy of the claims in the Appendix hereto:

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7. A composition comprising therapeutically active amounts of a retinoid and from one to three oxygen-labile species selected from the group consisting of a retinoid, choleciferol, vitamin K, an ascorbic acid, a tocopherol; and a stabilizer compound comprising N-acetylcysteine.

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17. A composition comprising a retinoid and at least two oxygen-labile species selected from the group consisting of choleciferol, vitamin K, an ascorbic acid, and a tocopherol; and a stabilizer compound comprising N-acetylcysteine.

18. A composition according to claim 7 wherein said composition further comprises at least one water-soluble oxygen-labile species selected from the group consisting of niacin, thiamine, riboflavin, folic acid, pyrodoxine, pantothenic acid, niacinamide, lipoic acid, dihydroplipoic acid, and an amino acid.

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19. A composition comprising therapeutically active amounts of at least one oxygen-labile species selected from the group consisting of a retinoid, choleciferol, vitamin K, an ascorbic acid, and a tocopherol; and a stabilizer compound comprising N-acetylcysteine wherein said oxygen-labile species are a retinoid, a tocopherol and an ascorbic acid.

21. A composition according to claim 7 wherein said composition further comprises a humectant, an antioxidant other than said oxygen-labile species, a preservative, a fragrance, a surface active agent, a binder and a skin protectant agent.

22. A composition comprising a retinoid in an amount of about 0.01% to about 10% by weight of the composition, a tocopherol in an amount of about 0.01% to about 10% by weight of the composition and an ascorbic acid in an amount of about 0.01% to about 20% by weight of the composition N-acetylcysteine in an amount of about 0.001% to about 5% by weight of the composition.

23. A composition comprising an ascorbic acid in an amount of about 0.01% to about 5% by weight of the composition, a retinoid in the amount of from about 0.01% to about 10% by weight of the composition and N-acetylcysteine in an amount of about 0.001% to about 0.1% by weight of the composition.

24. A composition comprising an ascorbic acid in an amount of about 0.01% to about 5% by weight of the composition, a tocopherol in an amount of about 0.01% to about 1% by weight of the composition and retinol in an amount of about 0.01% to about 0.4% by weight of the composition and N-acetylcysteine in an amount of about 0.01% to about 0.1% by weight of the composition.

REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment is respectfully submitted in response to the Final Rejection rendered on May 6, 2002 and the